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14 November 1979

Worldwide Report

LAW OF THE SEA

No. 108



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WORLDWIDE REPORT

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WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

AUSTRALIA HOPES TO DECLARE 200-MILE FISHING ZONE

OW120924 Hong Kong AFP in English 0725 GMT 12 Sep 79 OW

[Text] Canberra, Sept 12 (AFP)--Australia hopes to proclaim legislation declaring its 200-mile fishing zone by November 1, the minister for primary industry, Mr Ian Sinclair, told federal parliament today.

But government officials later refused to say whether the declaration would include the Australian Antarctic Territory (AAT).

Australia is one of the few countries which still actively asserts its claims to about 40 percent of the Antarctic Continent and it has been a matter of considerable debate in government circles here as to whether the fishing zone would include the Antarctic waters.

A foreign affairs department official today told AFP that Australia's position towards the AAT would not be announced until nearer the date for proclamation, November 1.

CSO: 5200

WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

AUSTRALIA TO DECLARE 200-MILE FISHING LIMIT 1 NOVEMBER

Many Seek Access

Melbourne Overseas Service in English 1130 GMT 25 Sep 79 OW

[Text] It has been confirmed that Australia's 200-mile fishing limit will be proclaimed on 1 November, but a major review of Australia's coastal surveillance needs and resources originally due to begin the middle of next year has been postponed for at least 12 months. The minister for primary industry, Mr Sinclair, confirmed the date of the declaration of the fishing zone in federal parliament today.

Applications have been received from 40 foreign interests seeking access to Australian waters, and Japan has agreed to pay \$1.4 million a year for tuna fishing rights.

The minister for transport, Mr Nixon, said the delay in the review of coastal surveillance needs had been caused by the need for practical experience with the 200-mile fishing zone and the decision to use Nomad aircraft for surveillance. Mr Nixon said it was expected that the surveillance organization would have enough experience with the program to report fully on its task by mid-1981.

'AFP' Report

OW241500 Hong Kong AFP in English 0248 GMT 24 Sep 79 OW

[Excerpts] Canberra, Sep 24 (AFP)--Australia will proclaim a 200-mile fishing zone as from November one.

Simultaneously the minister for primary industry, Mr Ian Sinclair, will announce the first bi-lateral fishing agreement between Australia and Japan.

Australian officials have revealed that more than 40 applications from 10 fishing nations have been received for access to the new Australian fishing zone. Among the applicants were the Soviet Union, South Korea, Taiwan, West Germany and the U.S.A., while Australia and New Zealand will work closely together in policing the Australian and New Zealand fishing areas.

CS0: 5200

AUSTRALIA DECLARES SOVEREIGN FISHING ZONE IN ANTARCTIC

Announced by Industry Minister

Hong Kong AFP in English 0613 GMT 25 Sep 79 OW

[Text] Canberra, Sept 25 (AFP)--Australia has declared as a sovereign fishing zone 200 nautical miles around "Australian territory" in Antarctica. The minister for primary industry, Mr Ian Sinclair announced this in the House of Representatives today, simultaneously with a declaration that Australia claims sovereign rights to a sea area around the Australian Continent almost equal in area to the Australian land mass. Mr Sinclair said the declaration regarding Antarctica recognised the international discussions which were pending about this territory.

The spokesman for mineral resources in the opposition, Mr Paul Keating, said a full debate and a clear statement in specific terms on the Australian Government's intentions in Antarctica were overdue. He obtained leave to continue his remarks in the future, after an assurance from the government that more details would be given as soon as possible.

Further Details

OW262043 Hong Kong AFP in English 0616 GMT 25 Sep 79 OW

[Text] Canberra, Sept 25 (AFP)--A unilateral declaration of a 200-nautical-mile fishing zone around Australia and Australian Antarctica was proclaimed in the Australian Parliament today. The minister for primary industry, Mr Ian Sinclair, said the gazette of regulations tomorrow, for action on November 1 at the latest, would declare the total allowable catch, the necessity for foreign fishermen to be licensed, and the conditions of the access fees to be charged.

Mr Sinclair said negotiations were continuing with Japan. Documents were ready for a fishing treaty on an annual review basis. Japan had agreed to an initial access fee of 1.4 million Australian dollars and a promise of access to the Japanese market of some Australian products from Australian fisheries. Discussions were continuing with Taiwanese fishing agents which affected assurances to cease illegal activities by Taiwanese around the Australian Great Barrier Reef. Negotiations would be introduced to supplement those already begun with Indonesia, the Solomons, New Zealand and France where Australia's fishing zone boundaries might overlap territories of those countries.

Mr Sinclair explained that recent discussions with Papua-New Guinea about Torres Strait territory would exempt certain waters. These would be set out in detail in the appropriate documents. Meantime, feasibility in areas untouched by Australia was being studied by Japan, South Korea and the U.S.A. After two years the results of these studies would be made available to the Australian Government when further decisions would be made.

Speaking for the opposition, Mr Paul Keating said this was an historical document opening up new areas of resources. The government was too vague in some areas, especially in regard to the Antarctic where environmental problems must be resolved.

He said the opposition would want the declaration of a specific code for the conduct and operation of the zone, not only by Australian fishermen but by licensed fishermen from other countries. He urged that Australia should set up its own coastal, maritime surveillance unit not only to police the fishing zone, but to deal with drug smuggling and other illegal activities in Australia's sovereign territories. The government gave an assurance of an early debate on these matters.

CSO: 5200

SUB-ANTARCTIC FISH RESOURCES IN 200 MILE ZONE TO BE SURVEYED

OW030932 Hong Kong APP in English 0802 GMT 3 Oct 79 OW

[Text] Canberra, Oct 3 (AFP)--Australia will make exploratory surveys of fish resources in the 200-mile zone it has declared around the sub-antarctic islands of Heard, McDonald and MacQuarie.

Primary Industry Minister Mr Peter Nixon, said today that although significant resources of fish and crustaceans were believed to exist around the three islands, Australians knew little of their nature and extent. He said it was expected that some information would be obtained on fish resources in the waters from a feasibility fishing venture involving two Polish trawlers. But he said an echo sounder had been fitted to the federal government navigational aids ship "Cape Pillar" which would undertake a bathymetric survey off Heard and McDonald islands in April 1980. "This will provide valuable information on fish occurrence and suitability of grounds for trawling," he added.

Australia will proclaim its 200 mile fishing zone around Australia and the 40 percent of Antarctica Australia claims on November 1.

CSO: 5200

WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

INDONESIAN COMMENTS ON AUSTRALIAN 200-MILE LIMIT

BN030810 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0754 GMT 3 Oct 79 BK

[Text] Jakarta, Oct 2 (ANTARA)--The Indonesian Foreign Ministry considers Australia's plan to proclaim the 200 sea-mile limit as the extent of Australia's fishery zone next November 1 as something reasonable provided the provisional border lines with neighbour countries are delineated with due regard to the sovereign rights of the countries concerned. This was stated here by Foreign Ministry spokesman Alaydrus Tjandjaja [2 October] when asked by the press for his comment on an announcement made by the Australian Minister of Primary Industry and acting Foreign Minister in the Australian Parliament last September 27 that the Australian Government will next November 1 proclaim its fishing zone as extending to 200 sea miles.

He added the Indonesian Foreign Ministry has taken due note of this Australian plan to extend its fishing zone limit to 200 miles next November 1. The announcement, he said, was quite reasonable provided the (temporary) boundaries with neighbour countries (before reaching final mutually agreed arrangements) would be set with due regard to the sovereign rights of the countries concerned on the basis of existing and developing international law.

He said the Indonesian Government still had to obtain and study the text of the Australian announcement and all its implications before deciding on a concrete attitude, particularly on how to draw temporary boundaries of the Australian fishing zone in waters adjacent to Indonesian territory. Alaydrus further said Indonesia's stand would, as a matter of course, be conditioned by a number of factors, the most important being Indonesia's sovereign rights to an exclusive 200 mile economic zone which should be safeguarded; negotiations now still in progress between the two countries on their continental shelf boundaries south of East Timor, and the furthering of the existing good relations between the two countries in general.

CSO: 5200

NONALINED NATIONS FISHING COOPERATION DRIVE DISCUSSED

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Sep 79 pp 22-23

[Interview with Cuban Minister of Fishing Anibal Velaz, by Victorio M. Copa: "Fishing Cooperation"; date and place not given]

[Text] Cuba believes that the cooperation existing in various branches of fishing between countries belonging to the Movement of Nonaligned Nations will produce useful, beneficial results for developing countries, according to Cuban Minister of Fishing Anibal Velaz.

In an exclusive interview with PRISMA, the minister said that there are problems common to all these nations that must be resolved in order to carry out plans enabling them to manage and rationally work their fishing resources, expand their industrial and extractive capabilities and establish adequate infrastructures.

The struggle of the nonaligned nations to establish a new international economic order leading to the gradual disappearance of the differences between the income of developing and developed countries embraces ever wider fields.

At the meeting of the fishing coordinating group of the nonaligned nations, held in Rome in April and presided over by Cuba, it was decided to work out a methodology so that the group might possess sufficient information to make recommendations at the Sixth Summit Conference of the Movement of Nonaligned Nations in Havana.

The participants: Libya, Morocco, Sri Lanka and Malta, along with other non-aligned nations present as observers, confirmed the need to set up multinational enterprises in the area of fishing.

Another agreement concerned a study aimed at determining what resources exist in the economic zones of these nations.

The analytical and research work will be completed with the support of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), which participated in the Rome meeting as an observer.

Minister Velaz spoke at length about these and other matters.

[Question] What is the specific task of the fishing coordinating group of the Movement of Nonaligned Nations?

[Answer] Since the first meeting of nations for cooperation in this sphere, the group of coordinators has gradually expanded from four to eight members.

Our specific task is to establish contact with developing nations and international aid organizations and try to identify the interests of the nations in the field of fishing, determine their possible contributions and propose ideas for economic and scientific cooperation.

In addition, we are to prepare the information corresponding to this sphere for the countries and the Movement's Coordinating Bureau.

[Question] What were the most significant achievements of the first meeting of coordinators in April in Rome?

[Answer] We can say that we achieved the approval of a working plan to be followed until the next summit conference in which all the coordinators will participate.

We can also view as positive the willingness of the LAES [Latin American Economic System] fishing committee and the FAO to cooperate with the nonaligned nations in this sphere, which has been expressed by their representatives in participating as observers in the second meeting of countries interested in this cooperation in Rome in 1978 and the ratification of this position at the coordinators' meeting in April.

The results of the first meeting of coordinators in April were confirmed and turned into a mandate for countries belonging to the Movement by the ministerial meeting of the Coordinating Bureau held in Sri Lanka.

[Question] What results do you think the developing countries can achieve with this type of cooperation observed in various branches of fishing?

[Answer] It is undeniable that they will be beneficial. First of all, the countries that participated in the two meetings held in November 1977 in Havana and June 1978 in Rome expressed and confirmed their will to cooperate in this field of activity.

The work done by the coordinating countries in order to ensure compliance with the agreements and recommendations of the Movement, the possible aid from various international sources and the interest of nations in developing their fishing industries allow us to believe that in the coming years, we shall achieve positive results.

Furthermore, we believe that cooperation in the field of fishing between countries in the Movement and other developing nations does not interfere

in present or future bilateral accords. On the contrary, we think that it will become a very important source of multilateral aid in order to carry out projects which, because of their scope, go beyond the technical and economic ability of two nations interested in specific aspects.

There are problems common to all developing nations that must be resolved in order to carry out plans enabling them to manage and rationally work their fishing resources, expand their industrial and extractive capabilities and establish adequate infrastructures.

Naturally, countries without a coastline are not excluded from this sphere of cooperation since it contemplates aquaculture, in addition to the possibilities of these nations of establishing fishing support industries.

[Question] Could you tell us about the short- and long-term projects of the coordinating group?

[Answer] The immediate task of the coordinating group is that of carrying out the agreed-upon plan of work and sending to the Sixth Summit Conference the report containing prospects in this sphere, including certain ideas for economic, scientific and technical projects.

Another immediate task is that of ensuring the expansion of the group of coordinators, which will depend on the decision made by governments inasmuch as it is up to the nations belonging to the Movement to express their desire to be coordinators. This is a broad and important sphere that demands the participation of a larger number of countries.

The mandate emanating from the conference of heads of state and government will determine the next work plans to be carried out by coordinators.

Cuba, the central coordinator of the group, as agreed upon by the other countries, will do its utmost to complete the tasks assigned and contribute its experience so that the coordinating group may successfully carry out its tasks.

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WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

ETHIOPIA GRANTS USSR MONOPOLY ON COASTAL OIL EXPLORATION

NC251924 Paris AFP in English 1905 GMT 25 Sep 79 NC

[Text] Rabat, September 25 (AFP)--The Addis Ababa Government has granted the Soviet Union a monopoly for oil prospecting and exploitation off Ethiopia's Red Sea coast, the representative here of the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) affirmed today.

He said a deal to this effect was concluded during a recent visit to Ethiopia by Soviet Premier Aleksey Kosygin.

The ELF spokesman said that in exchange for this concession, the Soviet Union would carry out a port extension project at Assab while East Germany would redevelop the port of Massawa.

CSO: 5200

WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

ROC DEFENSE MINISTER: NAVY, AIR FORCE TO PROTECT FISHING FLEET

OW031029 Taipei CNA in English 0938 GMT 3 Oct 79 OW

[Text] Taipei, Oct 3 (CNA)--Units of the Chinese Air Force and the Chinese Navy have been alerted to protect Chinese fishing boats, Defense Minister Kao Kwei-yuan told legislators Tuesday. He made the remarks in answer to question on the Legislative Yuan floor on what the government is prepared to do following its declaration 200-mile economic zone on the sea.

Before the government has reached an agreement with foreign countries, Kao said, a line will be drawn on the middle of the Bashee Channel, with the Chinese Air Force and Naval units providing protection to Chinese fishing boats operating in the northern half.

Kao didn't mention the Philippines by name, but it was the Philippines which claimed a 200-mile economic zone on Sep 1, extending its claim almost to the doorstep of Taiwan. The Chinese government countered with the same claim.

Kao said the Chinese Air Force and Naval units will act in accordance with the regulations against ships that intrude into the 200-mile zone. He didn't elaborate what the regulations are. He said a plan to protect Chinese fishing boats is being prepared. He said negotiations are being conducted through diplomatic channels with countries that have an overlapping claim on the 200-mile zone.

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WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

FINLAND AGREES UPON BALTIC FISHING ZONES WITH USSR

LD201715 Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish 1530 GMT 20 Sep 79 LD

[Summary] Finland and the USSR have agreed on the fishing zones in the Gulf of Finland and the northeastern part of the Baltic. Report by Jukka Koponen:

The agreement on fishing zones between Finland and the USSR will mean that international fishing waters close to Finnish waters will disappear. The fishing limit of 12 nautical miles in operation in the Gulf of Finland means that the Finnish and Soviet fishing waters meet. So far other countries have been allowed to fish freely in the northeastern part of the Baltic, but the agreement negotiated with the USSR aims to remove this region.

Other countries of the Baltic have already extended their fishing limits. Two years ago an extension of the fishing zone in the Gulf of Bothnia took place.

"Fishing talks are also under consideration at present between Finland and the Soviet Union. These concern mainly fishing for sprats. Since 1976 an agreement has been in force between Finland and the USSR, according to which the Soviets are permitted to fish 14,000 tons of sprats a year in the Finnish fishing zone, while Finland's entire sprat quota is just under 20,000 tons. This agreement goes back to the time when Finland extended its fishing zone to 12 nautical miles and when the area extended to waters where the Soviets had previously engaged in sprat fishing. Finland has now aimed to revise this agreement, and to reduce the USSR's sprat fishing in Finnish waters. Talks were held earlier in the summer and they will continue when the meeting of the Baltic fishing commission has ended in Warsaw."

At the Warsaw meeting quotas are fixed for the fishing of herring, sprat and cod. Fishing talks in Warsaw have just started in working groups. This time special attention is paid to sprat; scientists say stocks of this have dropped alarmingly in the Baltic, and it is likely that sprat fishing will be considerably restricted. Sprat fishing in Finland has so far been slight compared with other countries.

"The Finnish-Soviet agreement on the fishing zones will be signed in Moscow in about a month's time when more detailed information about the fishing limits will also be published."

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WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

'APP': SOVIETS MOVE TO SET UP FISHING BASE IN COOK ISLANDS

OM200511 Hong Kong APP in English 0502 GMT 20 Sep 79 OW

[Text] Wellington, Sept 20 (APP)--A new Russian move to set up a fishing base in the South Pacific for its deep-sea fleet has begun, centred on the Cook Islands. Talks have ended between the two countries in Auckland, New Zealand, with no final agreement on Soviet access to the proposed 200 mile Cook Islands economic zone.

The Cook Islands government of Dr Tom Davis has been keeping the N. Z. Government fully informed on the progress of the negotiations. New Zealand has responsibility for the foreign affairs and defence of the Cook Islands under the special relationship between the two nations.

The Soviet move is viewed with concern by the ANZUS nations coming on'y three years after a Soviet approach to the island kingdom of Tonga for a fishing base. Pressure from the three ANZUS partners--the U.S., Australia and N.Z.--helped scuttle that move. Progress of the Cook Islands-Soviet talks has been watched closely by Wellington, Canberra and Washington.

The New Zealand Government could be embarrassed by any fishing deal between the Cook Islands and the Russians, since defence cover could be expected to include N.Z. policing of the Cook Island fishing zone. Wellington sources suggest the move could reactivate a United States claim of sovereignty over Penryn Island in the northern Cooks if the Russians seek access to the deep-water facilities available at Penryn Atoll. The American claim is based on discovery of early U.S. whaling ships.

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WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

KIRILLIN RECEIVES DUTCH OCEANOLOGY DELEGATION

LD021110 Moscow TASS in English 2225 GMT 1 Oct 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, October 1. TASS--Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and Chairman of the USSR Committee for Science and Technology Vladimir Kirillin today received a delegation of the Industrial Council for Oceanology of the Netherlands, led by its President P.I.S. de Jong.

The two sides discussed prospects of scientific and technical cooperation between the USSR and the Netherlands in the exploration and exploitation of mineral resources of the continental shelf, in the development of sea-drilling equipment and the construction of installations for the exploration and development of oil and gas. On the same day the two sides signed an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation between the Soviet Committee for Science and Technology and the Industrial Council for Oceanology of the Netherlands.

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WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

NORWEGIAN-FILIPINO FISHING VENTURE--A \$47 million fishing venture will rise in Zamboanga city soon. The project, a joint Norwegian-Filipino venture, will provide employment to some 10,000 residents. Commissioner on Islamic Affairs and Southern Command Chief, Rear Admiral Romulo Espaldon, said President Marcos has approved the project. He said the fishing venture will include fish catching, setting up of a cold storage plant, a canning factory and a feed processing mill. [Text] [Manila PNA in English 0830 GMT 25 Sep 79 OW]

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INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

SHELF OIL DRILLING--Drilling operations in search of oil in the continental shelf south of Cheju Island will begin in April next year, it was learned yesterday. Concluding the two-day session of the Korea-Japan Joint Commission, the Foreign Ministry announced that the seabed boring would begin with two holes--one in the seventh bloc and the other in the fifth bloc. The ministry also disclosed that seismic surveys of the two blocs, which are estimated to have vast oil potential, would start as scheduled 25 October this year as the Japanese side had settled all problems concerning compensation for its fishermen for damage that might be caused by the survey activities. The seismic survey is expected to last for about one month. But the analysis of the survey and various preparatory steps for the seabed development will take about four months. As for the issues regarding to the shipment of various equipment and facilities necessary for oil development to and from Korea, a ranking ministry source explained, the two nations agreed not to impose customs on taxes. So as to help effective survey and drilling operations, the source said, all personnel who engaged in such operations would be allowed to enjoy free travel to and from Korea. The Seoul session also took up technical matters related to prevention of sea pollution and accidents and communications. [Text] [Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Oct 79 p 7]

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AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

SEA CRIMES LAW--Canberra, 26 Oct (AFP)--The federal crimes at sea act will come into operation off the Australian coast on November 1 to coincide with the 200 mile offshore fishing zone. The Australian attorney general Senator Peter Durack, told a Townsville audience that for the first time all relics of the British Admiralty jurisdiction off the Australian coast affecting Australian law will disappear. Senator Durack explained that individual state law and an overriding federal application will apply. The sea crimes law will apply to offences committed on or from Australian ships and to offences by Australian citizens on foreign ships where they were not members of the crew. Arrangements have been made to ensure a speedy trial by removing proceedings from a court in one part of Australia to a court in another part of Australia to prevent hardship to the accused. [Text] [OW260643 Hong Kong AFP in English 0551 GMT 26 Oct 79 OW]

CSO: 5200

ANZUS ASSURED: NO SOVIET BASE FACILITIES

Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 8 Oct 79 p 3

[Text]

WELLINGTON, 6 Oct—
The ANZUS partners have been assured the Soviet fishing fleet will not be given on-shore base facilities within the Cook Islands' 200-mile economic zone.

After talks in Wellington yesterday between New Zealand and Cook Islands ministers, Cooks Trade Minister Vince Ingram said today New Zealand had been given an assurance a "purely fisheries deal" was being discussed with the Russians.

Mr Ingram said nothing about the deal being negotiated should give rise to any concern by the ANZUS partners, Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

New Zealand had spelt out the "military and strategic implications of

any agreement which extend beyond a pure fisheries agreement".

Mr Ingram said New Zealand had in no way put pressure on the Cook Islands Government over the discussions with the Russians, or applied pressure on behalf of its ANZUS partners.

The Cook Islands' 200-mile zone came into force from October 1. Earlier, Soviet approaches to the island kingdom of Tonga and to Western Samoa included talks on rights to shore-based facilities.

These approaches brought strong reaction from the ANZUS partners which were concerned to prevent a growth of Soviet penetration and influence in the South Pacific.—NAB/AFP

SOPHISTICATED MARINE RESEARCH SHIP TO SURVEY MANGANESE NODULES

Tokyo KYODO in English no time given 23 Oct 79 OW

[Text] Tokyo Oct 23 KYODO--A highly sophisticated marine research ship, to be launched Thursday, will set sail for waters off Hawaii next July for an intensive survey on deep-ocean manganese nodules, potato-shaped lumps of mineral aggregate containing nickel, cobalt and manganese, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry announced Tuesday.

The yen 4.1 billion No 2 Hakurei Maru, owned by MITI's metal mining agency, will be equipped with what the ministry claims is the world's first high-speed deep-ocean television system connected to a computer.

MITI officials said the 2,050-ton ship will be able to make a precise survey of over 1.8 million square kilometers of seabed in 3 years to search for manganese nodules which normally lie 5,000 meters below the surface.

The new ship, when fitted out next May, will replace the Hakurei Maru, which has so far surveyed more than 1.5 million square kilometers of seabed over the past 5 years.

An estimate by MITI puts the total amount of manganese nodules on the world's seabeds at 1.7 trillion tons, which contain 67 times more manganese, 273 times more nickel and 3,625 times more cobalt than the proven deposits on land.

Attempts to tap the rich mineral resources have been going on for years now in the United States, West Germany, France and other industrial countries.

On private levels, Deep Ocean Mining Co.(DOMCO) of Tokyo has been pushing a development project with International Nickel Co (INCO) and U.S. and West German firms, while the Mitsubishi group has joined hands in a similar project with the Kennecott group.

The development of manganese nodules has been one of knotty issues at the U.N. Law of the Sea Conference since 1973.

Industrial nations have claimed they can develop the resources on their own, while developing nations have demanded international rules governing exploration.

Broad agreement on the issue is now expected to be reached by the end of the next year, MITI officials said.

CSO: 5200

VENEZUELA

BRIEFS

NEW OIL WELL--Caracas, 13 Sep--A second oil well has been successfully drilled between the islands of Tortuga and Margarita, 250 km northwest of Caracas. The well produces top quality petroleum of 30 degrees API at the rate of 1,000 barrels per day. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1843 GMT 13 Sep 79]

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SOVIET UNION SCORED FOR PLUNDERING FISHING RESOURCES

Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 12 Oct 79 p 1

[Article by (Editor) Leon Kok and SAPA: "UN Comes to Aid of SWA in UN: Soviets Plundering Our Fishing Grounds"]

[Text]

THE SOVIET Union came under heavy attack yesterday from the US for plundering the fishing resources off the SWA coast.

The attack was launched before the UN Decolonisation Committee in New York by US delegate Mr John Graham. He based his arguments on the official UN figures for 1977.

Mr Graham told the Committee that the Soviet Union had taken 750 000 tons of hake and mackerel from waters mostly within 350 kms of the SWA coast. He valued the catch at R174m.

Mr Graham indicated that the aforementioned catch was taken in the five years to 1977 and this works out to roughly 150 000 tons a year at an annual value of about R35-million.

SWA's share from deepsea fishing at present is about 6 percent of the overall catch or R15m a year. Earnings from the pelagic industry which generally fishes close to the shore should be about R25m this year, while canning

revenues are unlikely to exceed R7m or R8m.

Legislation was passed by the National Assembly recently to extend SWA's economic zone so as to protect the resources while pressure is also being exerted by SA through the International Commission for South East Atlantic Fisheries for a reduction in international quotas. It is not clear yet whether success will be attained in either of these aspects.

Mr Graham said: "If Namibia were in fact independent, one could assume that this might well fall within a Namibian exclusive zone and

thus result in economic benefit for the Namibian people."

The Soviet fishing could be made beneficial to SWA, he added. "Fees could be paid, licenses could be sought and Namibians would be trained."

Mr Graham said: "While the Soviet Union indicates its dedication to principles of conservation, it is a fact that their fishing practices off the Namibian coast have been predatory, and that the important hake fishery off that coast has been severely depleted by their efforts over the last five years to the severe detriment of the people of Namibia."

The Director of the SWA Economic Affairs Directorate, Mr Piet Kruger, declined to comment.

SIDORENKO DESCRIBES ADVANCES IN STUDY OF PACIFIC, WORLD OCEANS

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Aug 79 p 3

[Article by academician A. Sidorenko, vice president of the Academy of Sciences USSR, president of the Pacific Ocean Scientific Association and of the 14th International Pacific Ocean Congress: "The Pacific Ocean at the Service of People — Science Broadens Our Horizons"]

[Text] Never before have scientists given so much attention to the problems of studying and rationally using the natural resources of the World Ocean. The ocean no longer, as it once did, seems boundless, its natural resources inexhaustible, or its waters so vast that we can throw all the industrial and domestic waste we want to into them. The scientific community in various countries has begun serious thought about the future of the World Ocean, because the future of our planet and of the entire human race depends significantly on how rationally we use the riches of these waters and protect them in the future. At the same time, the World Ocean has been little-studied and is full of mysteries, even though people began learning about it during the period of the great geographic discoveries and this learning process has continued on a broad scale to the present day.

The Pacific Ocean is a subject of special interest. In area and water volume it accounts for half of the World Ocean. Moreover, almost half the population of the world is concentrated in the countries of the Pacific Ocean basin and on its islands. Therefore, as long ago as the 1920's scientists from a number of countries of the basin organized the nongovernmental Pacific Ocean Scientific Association. The Soviet Union joined it in 1926. Today more than 50 countries of the world are members.

In its charter the association set out noble objectives: promote cooperation in the study of scientific problems referring to the Pacific Ocean region, especially problems of improving the well-being and development of people of the region; strengthening peace and friendship among different peoples. The slogan of the 14th International Pacific Ocean Scientific Congress, which opens on 20 August in Khabarovsk, is "Put the natural resources of the Pacific Ocean in the service of human beings."

Selection of the USSR as the site for a session of the Pacific Ocean Scientific Association testifies to recognition of the major contribution being made by the Soviet Union to study of the Pacific Ocean. Soviet oceanological research was begun soon after the victory of Great October. In March 1921 V. I. Lenin signed a decree creating the Floating Marine Scientific Institute. This date is properly considered the birthday of Soviet oceanology. Systematic study of the seas that surround the USSR and of the Arctic Ocean was begun; after World War II it was expanded to include the World Ocean. In 1949 the Institute of Oceanology of the Academy of Sciences USSR's ship Vityaz', specially equipped for comprehensive deep-water studies, entered the Pacific Ocean.

We have a strong scientific and technical base for study of the World Ocean today. Ships such as Akademik Kurchatov, Dmitriy Mendeleev, and Akademik Vernadskiy are widely known, and dozens of other scientific ships are carrying research. Soviet scientists are conducting a very broad range of expeditionary studies. Problems of the World Ocean are studied by the institutes of the Academy of Sciences USSR, organizations of the State Committee on Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control, the USSR Ministry of Fishing, the USSR Ministry of Geology, and others. Formation of the Far Eastern Science Center of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR made it possible to step up research in the Pacific Ocean basin even further.

Soviet scientists have things to say at the congress. They have made a significant contribution to studying the geology of the Pacific basin. Geological studies of the Far East, Northeast, Kamchatka, and Sakhalin and the rules of formation and location of mineral deposits discovered during these studies have been widely acknowledged. They offer the possibility of better knowledge of the vast spaces of the ocean floor. The submarine topography is being studied in detail jointly with scientists from other countries. As a result many underwater ridges, spurs, canyons, hills, and mountains have been discovered. The Vityaz' trench, the Academy of Sciences USSR and Shatskiy hills, and Mount Sysoyev have appeared on the map. The greatest depth in the World Ocean, 11,022 meters in the Marianas Trench, was discovered.

Great advances have been made in the geology of the ocean floor. Until recently scientists had only a dim idea of its structure. Depth, tectonic, lithological, and mineralogical maps of the ocean

have been drawn. This is all becoming more and more important in practice because major accumulations of manganese concretions have been discovered on the surface of the floor and zones of accumulation of various polymetals have been established.

Deposits of oil and gas have been identified in oceanic sedimentary strata. Industrially feasible petroleum and gas has been proven on the shelves of Southeast Asia and the Arafura, Tasmanian, and other seas. We are accumulating information on prospects for store-houses of petroleum and natural hydrocarbons not only in shallow water but also at great depths.

Geological-geophysical studies of the structure of the deep layers of the ocean floor, accompanied in many regions by deep-water drilling, have opened a new phase in comprehensive study of the floor of the World Ocean and Pacific Ocean, a part of it. Advances in this work are giving a better understanding of the rules of evolution of our planet and the causes of tectonic movements, underwater volcanic activity, seismicity, and the occurrence of catastrophic tsunamis. By learning about the ocean floor we are beginning to develop a better understanding of the geological structure of the continents as well.

Soviet hydrophysicists and specialists in hydrodynamics have studied the large-scale distribution of temperature, water salinity, and water density throughout the Pacific Ocean. They have identified the circulations of the water. The system of equatorial currents, the Kuroshio and Oyashio currents, and the zone of the Peruvian upwelling, which is the zone where abyssal waters rise, have been studied in particular detail. The establishment of certain patterns in the formation and development of meanders (circular currents) and synoptic eddies, the so-called "rings," in the Kuroshio region, is also significant. These features have a marked influence on climatic processes in adjacent regions. For example, it has been established that during periods when the anticyclonic meander of the Kuroshio is developed in the winter, the Soviet Primor'ye receives unusually heavy precipitation in the summer, and in years when this phenomenon is absent or breaks up there is a shortage of precipitation and drought. Findings on the dynamics of the Kuroshio currents contain important information for forecasting weather conditions.

It is very important to go more deeply into the mechanism of interaction between the ocean and the atmosphere. Soviet and American scientists have shown that intensive heat exchange between the water and air elements blocks zonal transfer of air masses and leads to a radical reorganization of processes in the atmosphere, which is enormously important for long-term weather forecasting. Ships of the State Committee on Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control make regular, seasonal "hydrological cross-sections" in the Pacific Ocean, determining the influence of the heat reserves in the water on weather and atmospheric processes.

The origin, development, and movement of Pacific typhoons and how the ocean "reacts" to them has been studied. The multipurpose expeditions named Typhoon 75 and Typhoon 78 identified special features of the origin of typhoons in the process of large-scale interaction between the ocean and the atmosphere.

The work of biologists is enormously important for the practical activities of fishing and taking other sea products. Mathematical models of the tropical plankton communities of the ocean made it possible to predict the basic course of their development and the productivity of different plankton groups. Studies in the southern Pacific made it possible to reach a sound judgement on reserves of krill and to formulate recommendations on the level of the catch. Scientific techniques have been developed to evaluate the potential productivity of the biological resources of the near-shore zone of the ocean.

The fauna of most of the abyssal trenches of the Pacific Ocean has been studied. We have obtained data on its composition and size, and many species, genera, and families that populate the ultradeep zone of life and were previously unknown to science have been described. Deep-water fishes have been studied for the first time. The idea of "cosmopolitanism" in the fish fauna has been refuted; we have proved that different fish species inhabit different regions of the ocean. Knowledge of this rule is used in searching for promising new fishing zones.

Humanity is disturbed by the growing contamination of the World Ocean, because disruption of its ecological regime can significantly affect the entire planet. Therefore Soviet scientists are devoting considerable attention to chemical contamination of the northwestern part of the Pacific Ocean and Sea of Japan. Maps of contamination by petroleum products are being drawn. The effect of oil films on the oxygen regime of the surface layer of the ocean is under study, and the levels of concentration of these harmful substances that are critical for living things are being determined.

Thorough knowledge of the ocean depends significantly on the successful development of international cooperation. The global scale of the natural processes occurring in the ocean demands that observations be made concurrently over an enormous water area. Only by international cooperation is it possible to concentrate the required number of research ships and pieces of measuring equipment in a particular region of the ocean. A vivid example of efficiency and mutual advantage gained by joining efforts by scientists of different countries is the joint work by oceanographers of the Soviet Union and the United States. This work has been advancing successfully in recent years within the framework of Soviet-American intergovernmental agreements.

Soviet scientists take an active part in international programs to study the Pacific Ocean conducted under the aegis of the international oceanographic commission of UNESCO. In the last 10 years our scientists have successfully cooperated with Japanese specialists in the fields of marine geological and geophysical studies of the north-western part of the Pacific.

Experience has shown that joining the efforts of scientists from different countries offers a possibility of fuller use of findings from observations in the Pacific Ocean for the welfare of the people. This confirms once again the truth of the principle expressed by Comrade L. I. Brezhnev: "While it is one of the beneficial results of the policy of peaceful co-existence, broad cooperation among scientists at the same time serves as an important factor in solving pressing global problems of the day and strengthening trust among peoples."

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ORGANIZER DESCRIBES UPCOMING Khabarovsk Pacific Science Congress

Moscow Krasnaya Zvezda in Russian 20 Aug 79 p 4

[Article by M. Drobyshev, doctor of economic sciences: "The Ocean and Humanity"]

[Text] "The next century will be the century of space and the ocean." This is the opinion of many scientists making predictions for the future. One of the international scientific organizations engaged in study of the oceans and the related social problems of environmental protection is the Pacific Ocean Scientific Association. By decision of the association the site of the 14th Pacific Ocean Scientific Congress will be in the Soviet Union. This is the first time it has been in the Soviet Union. The congress opens on 20 August in Khabarovsk. In the article below doctor of economic sciences M. Drobyshev tells our Krasnaya Zvezda correspondent about the significance of the congress and how it will function.

The seas and oceans have attracted human attention for thousands of years. Today the World Ocean has become a subject of interest to virtually all branches of natural science. This is no surprise, for the 1.5 billion cubic kilometers of the seas and oceans occupy 71 percent of the surface area of our planet. In a setting of such vast water areas even the continents appear as nothing more than large islands. The largest ocean in the world in terms of area and depth, the Pacific, touches the shores of four of these "islands" — Asia, Australia, and North and South America. From north to south it extends almost 16,000 kilometers; from east to west it is almost 20,000 kilometers. The Pacific Ocean covers an area nine times larger than the visible part of the moon. It is difficult to overestimate the role of this enormous body of water in the life of the human race. More than half of the population of the planet lives in the region of the Pacific Ocean basin. Enormous economic potential

is concentrated here. The region has enormously rich biological and mineral resources, and lines of communication that connect four continents.

The issues to be discussed by participants at the congress have become especially critical now, because it will be difficult to solve many vitally important problems without thorough study and development of the World Ocean. The foremost problem is the food problem. In one of the U. N. estimates, the population of the earth will be about 7 billion people in the year 2000. Already today the inhabitants of many countries suffer extreme deficiencies of animal protein. But merely to maintain the current level of nutrition in the year 2000, all world food reserves must be increased 4-7 times and animal products nine times. At the present time the seas produce 73-75 million tons of output each year, an average of 17 kilograms per inhabitant of the earth. This is just 20 percent of all the animal protein consumed as food by the population of the earth today.

Is it possible to increase the oceans' "contribution" to solving the food problem? Specialists say it is and they are doing a great deal of work in this direction. The feasible fish catch today without detriment to reproduction is estimated at 100 million tons. Aquaculture, which means establishing underwater plantations and farms to breed and raise fish, oysters, mussels, and algae, is becoming increasingly important.

But the ocean is not just a source of human food; it is also a natural storehouse of enormous mineral reserves. The ocean waters contain essentially all elements of the Mendeleev table. The World Ocean has enormous petroleum riches. The ocean floor is already producing 25 percent of world petroleum and gas extraction. There are predictions which say that this figure will rise to 50 percent by the end of the century. World scientists are devoting great attention to utilization of the vast reserves of mechanical and heat energy in the oceans and seas. The exploitation of ferromagnesian concretions, unique metal placers on the ocean floor whose reserves are between 200 and 1,000 billion tons, has aroused real hopes. The ocean may be referred to as the planet's "weather kitchen" or as its "lungs," because we receive about half of the oxygen in the atmosphere through the process of photosynthesis in sea plants. It may be referred to as a source of fresh water, which is becoming scarce today in many countries. Finally, it can be viewed as an environment in which future human beings will live.

In short, the World Ocean is a great treasure. How to use this wealth, what needs to be done to avoid disrupting the reproduction of the living inhabitants of the ocean and to avoid contaminating the water with industrial and domestic waste — these and many other questions will be at the center of attention during the 14th Pacific Ocean Congress. The slogan of the congress, "Put the natural resources of

the Pacific Ocean to use for the benefit of the human race," fits these objectives.

Speaking at the 25th CPSU Congress, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, L. I. Brezhnev said: "Already today we face fairly important and pressing global problems such as the raw material or energy problems, elimination of the most dangerous and widespread diseases, environmental protection, development of space, and utilizing the resources of the World Ocean. In the future they will have a growing influence on the life of every people and on the entire system of international relations. Our country, like the other socialist countries, cannot stand aside from solving these problems, which involve the interests of the entire human race." By their participation in the work of the Pacific Ocean Scientific Association Soviet scientists are making a significant contribution to solving the problems of the Pacific Ocean. The fact that the Soviet Union was chosen as the site for this congress is acknowledgement of this contribution. The International Pacific Ocean Scientific Association, which now joins more than 50 countries, was founded in 1920 by a decision of the 1st Pan-American Scientific Conference. Six years later the Academy of Sciences of the USSR became a member of it. Academician A. V. Sidorenko, vice president of the Academy of Sciences USSR, is president of the International Pacific Ocean Science Association. The headquarters of the association is located in Honolulu, in the Hawaiian Islands.

The association is expected to promote cooperation among scientists in solving scientific problems related to the Pacific Ocean region. Special significance is attached to questions of the well-being of the population of the Pacific Ocean countries and strengthening peace and friendship among their peoples and scientists. The reports to be presented by scientists at the congress will deal with issues of environmental protection, botany, entomology, forestry, fresh water research, geography, public health, education, the social sciences, geology, and geophysics. Participants in the congress will be able to make 14 different scientific excursions and visit Lake Baikal, Yakutsk, Magadan, the island of Sakhalin, Nakhodka, and the settlement of Cherskiy, above the Arctic Circle. The 14th Pacific Ocean Scientific Congress will be an important stage on the way to solving those problems on which the present and future well-being of the human race greatly depends.

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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

LOS CONFERENCE, FRG INTERESTS EXAMINED

Duesseldorf HANDELSBLATT in German 21-22 Sep 79 p 24

[Article by Peter Schloesser: "United Nations' Maritime Law Conference. Strife and Intrigues About Our Common Infinite Heritage"]

[Text] For the past six years, the third United Nations' Maritime Law Conference has been trying to revise international maritime law so as to divide as equitably as possible "the common heritage of mankind," the raw materials of the sea. Politicians and diplomats, who have been alternating at the helm, are still navigating between innumerable reefs. The objective set at the beginning of the conference, to maintain the freedom of the seas, is increasingly threatening to fall into oblivion. At the same time, more and more heirs are coming forward with constantly increasing claims, at the numerous sessions of the maritime law experts in New York, Geneva and Caracas.

The disputes and intrigues which are taking place behind the scenes have brought and are bringing the maritime law conference into the headlines. One of the consequences has been widespread skepticism, especially because the giant undertaking is a production of the United Nations. Widespread prejudice against, the disdain for this institution apparently commanded that no one--apart from a few experts--be interested in the conference.

The image of the maritime law conference has not been exactly enhanced by news of the results achieved by its eighth session which has just ended in New York. According to a member of Bonn's diplomatic delegation: A lot of work has been done which concentrated on few points. However, in spite of all the work done, these points, as a rule, have not been settled, the delegations having spent a lot of work on solving detail problems. Nothing but expenses, then? This is true only to a point because there has been minimal progress so that an end to the deliberations and a presentation of the text of the convention are expected in 1981.

International Waters Cover Half the Surface of the Earth

The determination and the harshness which have characterized the negotiations appear understandable in part because exploitation rights, jurisdiction and areas on and in the sea--mankind's last large reserves--are at stake. A few facts and figures will make the dimensions clear: approximately five sevenths of the earth are covered by the sea. After the adoption of 200 nautical mile wide economic zones, 80 percent of the surface of the sea (50 percent of the earth's surface) remain as international waters. Therefore, 80 to 90 percent of the assumed offshore reserves of natural gas and oil belong to coastal states. Already in 1974, 17 percent of the oil production and 14 percent of the natural gas output came from offshore deposits. These proportions continue to increase. The best example is the increasing activity taking place in the North Sea. On the floor of the deep sea lie an estimated 100 billion tons of manganese nodules containing mainly manganese, but also nickel, copper and cobalt. These occurrences represent approximately 4,000 times the terrestrial occurrences of manganese, 1,500 times those of nickel, and 15 times those of copper.

From this point of view, the sea and its raw materials cannot be a self-service store from which technically competent and financially powerful states would take what they please. This is why the maritime law conference should in the end draft a convention regulating the use of the sea for navigation, fishing, deep-sea mining, environmental protection and military purposes. Under each of these main headings come numerous subheadings on which it is difficult to reach an agreement because of the variety of interests involved.

The United States Recognize Only the Three-Mile Zone

Considering the variety of points and subjects under negotiation at the conference, it becomes clear that there exists no general front, even though one often refers to the "group 77" or to the "group 21." Generally speaking, coastal states and geographically underprivileged states are confronting each other (this includes the FRG). These fronts have existed throughout the existence of the conference since coastal states demanded a 200 nautical mile economic zone at an early stage.

The 12 nautical mile wide territorial zone unilaterally declared by some of the coastal states is also a subject of controversy. As a result of a pointed declaration made by the coastal states during the eighth session, the U.S. Navy and Air Force, as a demonstration, intend from now on to extend their operations to the 12 nautical mile wide territorial zone unilaterally declared by many coastal states. It should be noted here that the United States recognizes only the three nautical mile zone firmly established by international law.

Accusation of "Gunboat Politics"

The majority of the delegates were, to say the least, astonished at Washington's new "gunboat politics." Those involved protested against what they called "a breach of international law." This reaction is not surprising if one considers that 22 states still recognize the old 3 nautical mile wide territorial zone. Already 111 coastal states have unilaterally decided to extend their territorial waters to 12 nautical miles.

Because of strong ensuing criticism, the United States had to give an explanation before the end of the session: It is clear, they said, that rights which are not exercised are in danger of being forfeited or of falling into oblivion; territorial waters cannot be extended at will, but only through the application of a multilateral convention.

Even if the United States emphasizes its interests by dispatching its navy and air force in the 12 nautical mile zone of foreign states, it is fairly certain that the conference is going to decide in favor of a 12 nautical mile wide territorial zone. To date, the United States have not yet attacked this position. It is more interested in free passage through international waterways. The measure decided by the United States makes an express exception for China and the Soviet Union who have both given themselves a 12 nautical mile zone. Countries involved are Burma, Libya and Argentina. In this case, the Soviet Union and the United States are working toward the same objective: in addition to free passage for their commercial fleets, they want first and foremost free passage for their war ships.

Admission of the EC Causes Problems

The final decisions of the convention are more likely to cause political discontent than the operations of American navy units. Conference participants have been busy discussing the question of whether, for instance, the PLO or the EC should be allowed to sign the convention. FRG representatives have decided in favor of EC admission while the United States is holding back. Thanks to the Lome agreement, the Third World shows an open attitude toward the proposal. Anyhow, many problems have to be solved before the EC can be admitted. For instance: In case of disputes, whom should the court of arbitration accuse, the country involved or the EC as a whole? Or: Who is responsible for a given question, the EC or its member countries? Until all these questions are solved, EC countries can hardly be expected to demonstrate unity of purpose in matters of maritime law.

The Eastern Bloc Wants to Admit the PLO

While the Eastern Bloc has expressed its strict opposition to admitting the EC, it is in favor, as the Third World also is, of admitting the PLO. The FRG has not yet had to express an opinion on this subject. In diplomatic circles, it is rumored that the FRG will pronounce itself against the admission of liberation movements.

The FRG, strongly disadvantaged as it is by the wedged-in position of its coast, can compensate the small length of its coastline by technological advance, financial power, state assistance and partnership with countries which are not able to exploit their economic zones on their own. Deep-sea mining presents itself in first line as a rewarding objective which could considerably reduce FRG's dependence on imported raw materials. The FRG consumes approximately 10 percent of the world's mining production, while it contributes only 1 percent of this production through mining on its own territory.

New Market for Technical Facilities

Apart from its important role in the production of raw materials, deep-sea mining also represents a new market for first-rate technical facilities. A mining facility for manganese nodules costs over DM 2 billion. Even if the FRG manufactures only the components for mining facilities, the effect on the labor market is going to be considerable. An order amounting to DM 500 billion would secure 1,500 to 2,000 jobs for 2 to 3 years.

In an opinion on a draft bill of the Bundestag concerning temporary regulation of deep-sea mining, the Federation of German Industries in Cologne moderates any excessive expectations. Expected restrictions on production as well as compulsory transfer of technology--according to the text under negotiation--will render "impossible" the exploitation of manganese nodules under "economical conditions." This, they say, will have negative effects on the future potential of deep-sea technology and therefore on the creation of new jobs. In addition, it also puts in question the raw materials supply desired for the FRG.

In view of the unwillingness of developing countries to compromise, the Federation of German Industries says it is necessary to find other ways to mine manganese nodules in order to offer security of investment to German deep-sea mining concerns. To the Federation of German Industries, the present draft bill, which is now under deliberation in a subcommittee of the economic committee of the Bundestag, represents a welcome alternative to the bogged down negotiations. However, such a regulation should only represent a temporary solution until a satisfactory international convention has been reached.

Preprogrammed Strife About Mining Territories

The purpose of the German interim law is to give companies access to deep-sea mining in order for them to apply and test their technology, and to supply the FRG with raw materials, the most important point. But hardly has this law been brought under way and agreed on with other states interested in deep-sea mining, that new problems arise. For instance: What happens when two consortiums are submitting proposals for the same area, or when their areas overlap? How is it possible to reach an agreement that would prevent a clash of interests? Shall we have to set up a small international organization to coordinate mining areas? In view of the maritime law convention, this would not be desirable. The solution should be sought in a way which would recognize foreign claims.

As far as participation of German companies in the production of extraction and exploitation facilities for deep-sea mining is concerned, they should finally achieve entrance in the offshore market. Of about 30 orders for drilling-platforms placed in 1978, none went to a German firm. Access to the market depends, among other things, on the outcome of the maritime law conference and on how many states agree to the new maritime law convention.

It is yet too soon to say whether the conference will end on a success or not. But one thing is already certain: "Freedom of the sea" was and remains a dream. The strongest have taken and shall take liberties which will never be permitted to the weakest.

Agreement on the Following Points Is Not Yet in Sight

Coastal sea (territorial waters): The extension of territorial waters to 12 nautical miles (instead of the previous 3) is certain to be one of the results of the conference. As a result, 120 maritime straits which are of great importance for international navigation are going to fall under the sovereignty of coastal states. A regulation of the right of free passage is therefore mandatory for international trade and navigation. Recent tanker accidents could have a negative influence on the relatively liberal regulation of the navigation which has been planned. Liability for damages, taking into account the legitimate interests of coastal states and of those near maritime straits appears therefore unavoidable. Coastal states are making special demands concerning crews, type and equipment of ships. National standards aimed at preventing maritime pollution by ships shall therefore also be included in international regulations.

Economic zone: Coastal states shall have the sole right to the exploitation of the sea and its floor on a 200 nautical mile (370 kilometer) wide zone from the coast. This means that these states are claiming for themselves the best fisheries of the earth (approximately 80 percent of all fish caught near the coasts). In addition, between 80 and 90 percent of the assumed reserves of offshore nautical gas and oil are located in that zone. An

additional 5 to 12 percent are assumed to exist between the economic zone and the foot of the continental shelf. As a result of this annexation of the sea, almost 40 percent of the sea is divided among coastal states. Twenty-nine land-bound states go empty-handed; 68 states are disadvantaged; 14 states are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged. The largest "piece of sea territory" falls to 34 states with long coastlines, among whom are some of the largest raw material producers of the earth who can now further increase their importance by exploiting their economic zone.

Continental shelf: According to the definition given by the International Court of Justice, the continental shelf is the natural continuation under the sea of a national territory. The Geneva Convention of 1958 had recognized the right of coastal states to exploit the continental shelf adjoining their coasts. At dispute is the outermost border of the continental shelf, because it affects the delimitation of the ocean floor of international waters. Under discussion are a horizontal limitation of the shelf at 350 nautical miles, or a vertical 2,500 meters' depth limit. The FRG advocates a precise delimitation by a border commission. At an early stage, mainland shelf states have introduced a compromise formula according to which a given percentage of the profits resulting from the exploitation of the continental shelf should go to developing countries. In addition, up to seven percent of the profits should go to the sea floor authorities after an initial five-year starting phase. What has not been resolved yet, is the basis for the computation of these royalties.

Settlement of disputes: With the establishment of economic zones, numerous border difficulties are to be expected. Regulations contained in the new maritime law convention, which have been arrived at through compromise, are often unclear or not unequivocally formulated. Therefore, they can be interpreted differently by the different states. Developing, industrial and also Eastern Block countries reject any settlement of disputes in court a priori, in part because they see it as an infringement on their sovereignty. Other states reject this manner of settling disputes in the case of territorial waters, economic zone and continental shelf as being incompatible with the rights which coastal states possess in this respect. The FRG advocates a general compulsory settlement in court for disputes concerning all parts of the maritime law convention. According to the FRG's position, such a settlement should constitute an integral part of the new maritime law convention.

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PLANS FOR EXPLOITATION OF PACIFIC TERRITORIAL WATERS

Paris LE FIGARO in French 21 Sep 79 p 12

[Article by Genevieve Schweitzer in Noumea: "Fishing: France Wants To Exploit Its Pacific Territorial Waters"]

[Text] Several French deep sea fishing industries, including Saupiquet, made an agreement at Noumea (New Caledonia) to launch an experimental tuna fishing program in the Pacific. The territorial economic zone and the adjacent international waters will be prospected first.

The purpose is to prepare for the ultimate placement of the fleets by creating investments on land. At the same time, agreements are going to be negotiated between the territories and the Pacific shipping companies which are already located there, to better develop the sea's resources.

One of the important results of the conversations about the development of marine resources in the French Pacific territories, which just took place in Noumea, is the initiative of Paul Dejoud, state secretary of DOM-TOM [Department of Overseas Territories]. Another result is the signing of a protocol between CNEOX (National Center for Exploitation of the Oceans) and ORSTOM (Bureau of Overseas Scientific and Technological Research), which defines the jurisdiction of these pilot research organizations and the areas of their "close collaboration."

France has begun to discover the potential riches of the Pacific Ocean. Third of the world maritime powers, because of the 200 nautical mile economic zones which wash its territories, it is aware of the immense resources which remain to be exploited in fishing, aquaculture, or farther in the future, mineral resources.

Businessmen as well as scientists are showing that they have high hopes. In addition to tuna fishing the fishing industry could also be developed in the territories where cooperative type organizations are established. Their ambition is to export (lobsters and frozen fish) to the United States and perhaps Japan. Application has been made for financial help.

The principle obstacle remains the great distances: in French Polynesia the islands are distributed over an expanse equal to the size of Europe.

Perhaps aquaculture seems to have the most interesting development possibilities. Oyster, mussel, and shrimp farming are all technically possible.

For this last, the international possibilities are very vast, but the financial problem remains for it also. The shrimp hatcheries and mussel and oyster farms must be established by the private sector, for this activity to develop.

Potentially rich for fishing or aquaculture, the Pacific is also a choice place for using solar energy or thermal energy from waves or from wind. Little exists in this area. Everything is still to do; hertzian relay or signaling projects, water pumping, domestic hot water and lighting, rural electrification, and soft water fabrication. A marine thermal powerplant producing a few megawatts (150 megawatts later) could be approved.

The under sea mineral resources and the famous polymetallic nodules could be "the third millennium" for the future, said Paul Dijoud. There are extraordinary riches in the Pacific. Research is underway. Unfortunately, according to the first estimates, the most favorable sites for the nodules are outside the national economic zones.

In addition, even though it is almost certain that there are under sea phosphate deposits in the lagoon subsoils of some atolls, it is not known whether they are rich enough in minerals to be usable. Moreover, the New Caledonian economic zone is certainly rich in hydrocarbons, but at too great a depth to be developed at present.

So research is going to be done for the sea's exploitation. There is always the problem of means, but the colloquium's participants are confident. The president of the republic had promised them the means, during his July visit to the territories. Aymar-Achille Fould, president of the interministerial commission for the sea, confirmed it: "Within reason, we will fight at the side of the secretary of state."

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ICELAND

FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE REPORTS 1979 CATCH OUTLOOK

Reykjavik MORGUNBLADID in Icelandic 14 Sep 79 p 3

[Text] The conclusions of the annual roe expedition of the Fisheries Institute indicate that the capelin spawn was successful last spring and that the stock in 1979 will be good, considerably better than the last couple of years. Ichthyologists are not sure about cod, as the overall stock is average, but the roe are thin and small. Very little haddock roe was found, and indications are that there will be a poor quality haddock stock this year. The same can be said about the carp, although we cannot give any assurances, as the part of the expedition that focused on carp fishing took place probably 2 weeks later than would have been desirable.

The fisheries research ship Arni Fridriksson began its roe expedition on 10 August, counterclockwise around the country. Eyjolfur Fridgeirsson was the leader of the expedition to Akureyri, where he was replaced by Hjalmar Vilhjalmsen. The Arni Fridriksson completed its part of the research at the end of last month. Vilhelmina Vilhelmsdottir was the leader of an expedition on the Bjarri Saemundsson that took off on 20 August, or about 2 weeks later than it should have.

During the investigation on the quantity and distribution of roe, the condition of the ocean and the plankton was also checked. The quantity and distribution of four species were, however, the main focus of the study: cod, haddock, capelin and carp. MORGUNBLADID spoke to ichthyologist Hjalmar Vilhjalmsen about the results of this research. He gave the following account:

"It is difficult to figure out the cod this time. The distribution was mostly in the north, as it often is, even if some individual fish were found as far east as Greenland. The overall quantity was rated poor to average, and the quantity alone gives reason to believe that this will at least be an average annual stock. On the other hand, the cod roe were very thin and small. That can have an effect on income this winter, but we have a parallel from 1975. I am told that the annual stock that year

did alright, but the cod roe were very small and not as plentiful as they are now. If they and we are lucky, we can expect a decent annual stock, but we cannot forecast anything at this point."

"Haddock prospects are more grim. We found little of it, mainly off Vestfirðir and off Nordurland in the west, which is common. The haddock roe were few and in bad condition, and I think that the 1979 stock will be poor.

"As far as the capelin is concerned, however, the overall quantity was not nearly as much as it was at its high point, which was in 1972-76. Then, the comparative figures were around 100, but this year it is around 50, which is considerably higher than in the bad years of 1978 and 1977. The roe were in good condition, and the area of distribution was large; it reached all the way from Melrakkasletta westward to Snaefellsnes and from there west across Dhornbank to eastern Greenland and far southwards along it.

"If we look at the condition of the roe, the quantity and the size of the bank, we must conclude that the 1979 stock of capelin must be good or at least that there are strong possibilities. Perhaps we will see the results of the restrictions that were put on last spring, when it got near the time of spawning. I am almost sure that if unrestricted fishing had been allowed, as has been the case, then the outcome would not have been so good. In 1978 and 1977 there was much overfishing of the spawning capelin, and the results were bad. Then the restrictions were put on fishing last spring, and we got this outcome.

"We were a bit disappointed about the carp. The quantity of carp roe is considerably smaller than the previous average, and it was interesting, for example, that in the middle of the Greenland Sea there were no carp roe, and what was found was on the outskirts of the sea. We also looked into the distribution of fully grown carp in these outskirts. With this in mind, we pulled in many places with a bottom trawl, which revealed that the carp roe is a major part of the diet among the species we caught, which were mainly carp and cod. This indicates that the Bjarni Saemundsson left too late and that the carp roe, however small, had started to go to the bottom. With our methods we don't see them at that point."

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SPAIN

BRIEFS

MAURITANIAN FISHING AGREEMENT--The Spanish minister of transport and communications, Salvador Sanchez-Teran, and the Mauritanian minister of planning and fisheries, Moulaye Ould Boukhreiss, have signed a bilateral fishing cooperation agreement after 3 days of talks between delegations of the two countries. At the conclusion of the talks the conditions were fixed under which the Spanish fishing fleet may operate from the moment that the Mauritanian fishing grounds are reduced--which was envisaged in the agreement signed last January--as well as the number of ships and the total tonnage of the fleet. The reduction of the Mauritanian fishing grounds is the result of the withdrawal by the Mauritanian administration of the territory of Tiris al Gharbia last August. [LD270434 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 26 Oct 79 LD]

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